

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8190

INFO USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB AFSP GR

SUBJ: LABOR: STATUS REPORT ON STRIKES AND SETTLEMENTS

REF A. ATHENS 2217 B. ATHENS 2404 C. ATHENS 2612

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS COPY EUR/EX

1. IN COURSE PAST FEW DAYS, SEVERAL SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITHIN LABOR SECTOR WHILE SOME ADDITIONAL STRIKES HAVE BEEN INITIATED. OF PRIMARY INTEREST, STRIKE OF OLYMPIC AIRLINES GROUND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND A SATISFACTORY PACKAGE SETTLEMENT EFFECTED. (DETAILS REPORTED REFTEL C.)

2. ATHENS BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS WHO CALLED STRIKE MARCH 20 (REF A) WHICH DISRUPTED PEAK HOUR ATHENS TRAFFIC AND WHO THREATENED SIMILAR STOPPAGE FEW DAYS LATER HAVE FINALLY AGREED TO SETTLEMENT, I.E. 24 PERCENT INCREASE IN SALARIES EFFECTIVE IN TWO STAGES--11 PERCENT RETROACTIVE TO MARCH 1 AND THE ADDITIONAL 13 PERCENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 1975. IN ANOTHER PORTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE ATHENS

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ARBITRATION COURT AWARDED 40 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES TO TWO

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS--(A) SHOP EMPLOYEES AND (B) OFFICE EMPLOYEES IN PRIVATE COMPANIES AND CORPORATIONS. BOTH OF THESE GROUPS WILL RECEIVE 20 PERCENT OF THAT INCREASE RETROACTIVELY TO FEBRUARY 10 AND WILL RECEIVE THE REMAINING 20 PERCENT AUGUST 1, 1975.

3. AS FOR NEW STRIKES, EMPLOYEES OF THE ITT IN THE ATHENS AREA COMMENCED A STRIKE APRIL 3, IN WHICH THEY EXPRESSED A DEMAND FOR A 35 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES. BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED IN THIS STRIKE. TO DRAMATIZE THEIR DEMAND THEY CONDUCTED BOTH A BUS CARAVAN AND A MARCH ON FOOT IN THE DOWNTOW AREA. MEANWHILE BAKERS THROUGHOUT GREECE ARE THREATENING TO COMMENCE A STRIKE ON APRIL 20, THEIR DEMAND BEING THE SETTING OF PRICE FOR BREAD ON TRUE COST FACTORS.

4. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY GOVERNMENT IS VIEWING WITH INCREASING CONCERN THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF STRIKES WITHIN THE NATION. THIS DEMONSTRATED TWO DAYS AFTER MINISTER RALLIS' APPEAL TO NATION (REF B) WHEN PM CARAMANLIS HIMSELF, IN CONTEXT OF PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH, CRITICIZED "INOPPORTUNE AND UNJUSTIFIED STRIKES" AS CONSTITUTING ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH CREATE AN UNHEALTHY CLIMATE WITHIN THE COUNTRY. KUBISCH

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